

Constitution. A recognition of his commitment and contributions to international relations, President Clinton appointed Irving to the Commission on the Preservation of American Culture Abroad where he had the lead responsibility for relations with Slovakia, Ukraine, and Moldavia. Irv was indeed a global citizen and has left an indelible mark not only on our state but across the world.

Here in Connecticut, Irv was also instrumental in the establishment of Connecticut Hospice—the first organization of its kind in the nation. Connecticut Hospice is dedicated to using a holistic approach in helping patients and their families attain an optimum quality of life as they cope with irreversible illnesses providing the comfort and care that they need in their last days. It may also be fitting that it was at Connecticut Hospice, surrounded by family and friends, that Irving spent his final days.

Irv dedicated a lifetime to public service and forever changed the face of Connecticut politics. I consider myself fortunate to have been able to call him my friend. Today, as we remember all that Irv contributed to his community and his state, I extend my deepest sympathies to his family: his son Robert; former wife, Alicia; his brothers, Roger and Frank; and his sister, Melody. Irving J. Stolberg set an example for public service to which we should all strive and has left a legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACADEMY ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Public Service Academy Act of 2009, which will create the first stand alone university dedicated solely to producing highly qualified and well-trained civilian public servants.

The new century has brought immense challenges that require strong and prepared, competent and committed public servants. On the eve of the retirement of the baby-boom generation, our nation presses for a new generation of teachers, firefighters, and federal employees to fill the potential void these retirees will leave. Our civil servants will have to address the need to finance entitlement costs in an age of trillion dollar deficits; the need to educate and train a workforce that can compete and prosper in a global economy; the need to provide quality affordable healthcare; the need to protect and preserve the planet's fragile environment; the need to negotiate and

reconcile differences with foreign nations; and the need to deter terrorism and keep our nation safe and secure. All of these challenges will require a professional public workforce, and yet because of shifting demographics our civil service faces a wave of retirement over the next decade that threatens the effective operation of government.

For these reasons, it is critically important that Congress provide young Americans with the best education and training that will allow them to become our nation's future leaders. Young Americans are ready to answer the call. According to the Higher Education Research Institute, approximately 70 percent of the 2007 freshman class expressed a desire to serve others. Applications to programs like Teach for America and City Year along with religious missions involving young Americans have greatly increased. A 2008 poll conducted by Social Sphere Strategies found that 88% of 18–29-year-olds supported the Public Service Academy, with 57% saying that they “likely” would have considered applying to the Academy had it been available when they were applying to college. College presidents, news publications and some of the leading voices in public service—both Democrat and Republican—have endorsed the creation of the Academy.

Now is the time to tap into American's renewed sense of civic obligation and offer an avenue to serve others. Yet, the cost of pursuing public service opportunities after graduation is often prohibitive because college tuition has increased dramatically in the past decade—47 percent at private schools and 63 percent at public schools. As a result of these soaring tuitions, the average college graduate owes about \$20,000, an increase of more than 50 percent in the past decade. These potential public servants often overburdened by the debts of college and university loans, are forced to choose more lucrative private sector jobs over public service opportunities.

Modeled after the military service academies, the Public Service Academy will provide a four-year, federally-assisted college education for more than 5,000 students a year in exchange for a five-year commitment to public service in areas such as education, public health, law enforcement, and local, state and the federal government. With its mission critical to the health of our public service, the Academy will strive to recruit the top students and faculty from around the United States, require intensive courses in leadership and public service, and eventually help place students in positions throughout the public sphere. Moreover, by providing students with a federally-funded education, the stress of debt would be eliminated, and their commitment to the public service sector for at least five years could lead to lifelong service.

Madam Speaker, last year, over 120 bipartisan cosponsors in the House of Representatives joined in the effort to create the Public Service Academy. I am encouraged by the early support of over 25 cosponsors in just a few weeks of circulating this year's proposal. The time to create a United States Public Service Academy is now. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the committees of jurisdiction to bring attention to this issue and make the Public Service Academy a reality.

RECOGNIZING DR. C. BRENT DEVORE

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2009

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize Dr. C. Brent DeVore for his service and tenure at Otterbein College.

Dr. C. Brent DeVore has been a tireless advocate for higher education. Known to his peers as, “the Dean of Higher Education,” Dr. DeVore has brought a great deal of leadership to Otterbein College throughout his 24 years of service. His service on the boards of 23 national and local non profit organizations earned him the honor of the President's Call to Service Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Otterbein has grown to 3,107 students under Dr. DeVore's guidance. He has improved retention rates and increased the endowment from \$6 million to \$100 million. Not only have student facilities been renovated, but land acquisition has nearly doubled the size of campus under Dr. DeVore's direction.

In addition to his work at Otterbein College, Dr. DeVore has made a lasting impression on the community. He has made service a priority of the college and student life. Last year alone, Otterbein students donated over 32,000 hours of community service to Central Ohio. Nearly 70 percent of the student body has participated in service projects throughout the community. Otterbein's generous service to the community earned Otterbein College the President's Award for General Community Service in February 2008 from the White House.

For his years of service at Otterbein College and consistent hard work toward the betterment of our higher education system, I commend Dr. C. Brent DeVore upon his retirement.